

Minutes of VMD Management Board meeting held on 1 July 2021

Members

Julia Drown (Chair)
David Catlow
David Corner
Timothy Riley
Philippa Hardwick

Present

Abigail Seager – VMD
Mike Griffiths – VMD
Marian Bos – VMD
Chris Abbott – VMD (note taker)

1. Announcements and apologies for absence

1.1 Apologies were received from Peter Borriello. Timothy Riley and Philippa Hardwick were welcomed to the Board and formally appointed to the audit committee, which Timothy Riley will chair in future.

2. Declarations of interest in the matters to be discussed

2.1 None.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2020

VMDMB 21/16

3.1 The minutes were agreed.

4. Matters Arising/Actions

VMDMB 21/17

4.1 The revised Communications and Engagement Strategy will be circulated when completed.

4.2 The workstream on implementing Gov.UK Pay has not yet started. An update will be provided during the Business IT Enhancement (BITE) programme update to ARAC in December.

5. Review of Annual Report and Accounts (as tabled at ARAC)

5.1 The Board accepted the audit committee's recommendation that the chief executive sign the Annual Report and Accounts.

6. Veterinary Medicines Regulations

6.1 Marian Bos, Head of the Legislation and Enforcement Office, explained that VMD was working on the revision of the veterinary medicines regulations (VMR) as they have an effect in GB. The VMR as they have an effect in NI will also require updating to reflect that as per the NI Protocol, the new EU Regulations on veterinary medicines and medicated feed will directly apply in NI from January 2022.

6.2 The current VMR have been in force since 2013 and require updating in several areas, such as fees, adverse event reporting, use of extemporaneous products, powers to obtain product information and for different types of inspections. The VMR are secondary legislation and changes will be debated in parliament. Internal discussions have been nearly finalised and some informal consultations held, with the formal consultation on proposed changes to the GB VMR due to start towards the end of this year with the aim of the new VMR for GB coming in to force in 2023. VMD is aware of the risk of divergence appearing between GB and NI regulations and is considering mitigating measures.

6.3 Once the revised VMR are in place, VMD intends to review and amend them on a regular basis, and this will give the opportunity to look at other issues such as amending prescribing practice, environmental effects of medicines and use of antibiotics and anthelmintics.

- 7. CEO's Report** **VMDMB 21/22**
- 7.1 The CEO's report was presented and reviewed. It was noted that, following VMD's involvement in launching the inventory of initiatives on developing veterinary medicines regulation in sub-Saharan Africa at smart-org.uk, this was now running independently.
- 8. Delivery against the Business Plan 2021/22** **VMDMB 21/18**
- 8.1 Delivery against the Business Plan was reviewed. Members were interested in routes to authorisation and issues around the environmental consequences of medicines and it was agreed to discuss this as a focus topic at the meeting in December.
- ACTION**
- 9. Finance report** **VMDMB 21/19**
- 9.1 The end of year finance report for 2020/21 was noted.
- 10. Management Board annual assessment form** **VMDMB 21/20**
- 10.1 The result of the annual assessment reflected well on the work being done by the Board.
- 11. Management Board work plan** **VMDMB 21/21**
- 11.1 It was agreed to have confidence in prescribing as a focus topic at the next meeting in September.
- ACTION**
- 12. Any other business**
- 12.1 This was David Corner's last meeting before his term of appointment ends and he was thanked for his contribution to the Board. Thanks were also extended to the retiring Peter Borriello for his dedication to the field of veterinary medicines.
- 13. Dates of future meetings**
- 13.1 The next meeting would be held on 28 September.

Veterinary Medicines Directorate
July 2021